

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 01511 091021Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 PM-04 ISO-00 EB-07 NRC-05 NSAE-00 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8750

INFO CNO WASHDC//OP 63//

S E C R E T TAIPEI 1511

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, TW

SUBJECT: EXPORT/CO-PRODUCTION OF PATROL HYDROFOIL VESSELS

REF: STATE 046680 (DTG 261648Z FEB 76)

1. REF REQUESTED MISSION COMMENTS ON THE EXPORT AND/OR CO-PRODUCTION IN THE ROC OF FLAGSTAFF MARK II PATROL HYDROFOIL VESSELS BY GRUMMAN.

2. IN LATE 1973 ROC DISCUSSED EXPORT/CO-PRODUCTION OF HYDROFOILS WITH ALINAVI REP OF ITALY FOR P420 SWORDFISH (SIMILAR TO USN TUCUMCARI). IN EARLY 1974 THE ROC AND HYDORFOIL VESSEL CO-PRODUCTION DISCUSSIONS WITH GRUMMAN AND BOEING. THESE INFORMAL PROPOSALS WERE NOT FOLLOWED UP BY ROC.

3. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FLAGSTAFF MARK II IS CAPABLE OF COASTAL PATROL, SURVEILLANCE, SEARCH AND RESCUE, ASW, AAW, SURFACE WARFARE AND INTERDICTION, AND TROOP TRANSPORT. THESE TASKS ARE PRESENTLY BEING ADDRESSED AND FUNDED IN DD MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, PSMM PROGRAM, PLANNED DD REPLACEMENT AND PLANNED SMALL COASTAL INTERDICTION CRAFT PROGRAM. ROC FUNDS COMMITTED TO EXISTING PROGRAMS ARE EXPECTED TO CONSUME AVAILABLE AND NEAR FUTURE BUDGET.

4. CHIEF BUPLANS, ROCN STATES THERE ARE NO PLANS TO ACQUIRE COMBATANT HYDROFOILS FOR THE ROCN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 01511 091021Z

HYDROFOILS ARE BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE COASTAL PATROL AND

INTERDICTION ROLE IN THE MID-1980'S TIME FRAME.

5. IN VIEW OF ABOVE WE BELIEVE PRESENT FLAGSTAFF MK II INQUIRIES ARE ONLY AN INDICATION OF ROC INTEREST AND ANOTHER MANIFESTATION OF ROC DESIRE TO LEARN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ABOUT ADVANCED WEAPONS SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT.

6. MISSION RECOMMENDS UNCLASSIFIED VESSEL DOCUMENTATION BE MADE AVAILABLE AS WAS DONE IN 1974 DISCUSSIONS; HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE IT IS PREMATURE TO CONSIDER GRUMMAN PROPOSAL IN LIGHT OF CURRENT ROC COMMITMENTS AND GROC'S PROBABLE DESIRE TO PURCHASE THESE VESSELS IN THE MID-1980'S. UNGER

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## Message Attributes

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